News release

Clarification of latest Met Office winter forecast

28 October 2005

The prospect of a cold winter is currently the subject of significant speculation amid reports that forecasters expect the coldest winter since 1963.

The Met Office's winter forecast does not make these extreme claims but does suggest that the coming winter will be colder and drier than normal. However it is too early to be specific about the timing and severity of any individual cold spells.

Most of the winters in the last ten years have been relatively mild. This perhaps gives the impression that this type of winter is now 'normal' meaning a colder winter would be more noticeable.

The Met Office winter forecast is based on techniques which, for the broad weather patterns across Europe, are correct about two times in three.

For further information:
Met Office Press Office +44 (0)1392 886655
E-mail: pressoffice@metoffice.gov.uk

Met Office Customer Centre 0870 900 0100
If you're outside the UK +44 (0)1392 885680

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